



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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# **GOP Jobs Plan To Boost MI's Economic Octane**

## ***Sikkema, Johnson outline 9-point plan to help create jobs, investment***

LANSING – Senate and House Republicans today unveiled the next phase of their comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan's stalled economy by targeting tax breaks to small businesses that create new jobs and eliminating many of the barriers entrepreneurs now face in starting up a company and bringing their ideas to the market place.

Phase two of the **JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS** action plan, or **JOBS II**, picks up where Republicans left off by creating new job opportunities, protecting existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

"Michigan must stop putting up road blocks to new job growth and business expansion," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "Michigan currently taxes new jobs, research grant funding, and has a whole host of burdensome state regulations that are hampering economic growth. The Republican JOBS II action plan will make Michigan more competitive with other states and countries."

Speaker of the House Rick Johnson, R-LeRoy, said the national economic recovery is bypassing Michigan and the Legislature must take the measures necessary that will help businesses grow the economy and create jobs.

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"Our Republican plan is simple. We're going to take the time-tested job creator – tax cuts – and combine it with the tools needed for a high-tech state like high-speed Internet, research and great universities," Johnson said. "Then we are going to tear down the road blocks to job creation: regulation and red tape. Combined, this will be the winning formula to fuel Michigan's jobs recovery."

The nine-point JOBS II is a broad-ranging call to action on Michigan's job creation front. Specifically, JOBS II would:

- Provide tax breaks to small businesses that create new jobs;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds;
- Get Broadband on Main Street by expanding Michigan's Broadband Authority to allow for funding of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminate red-tape nightmares by creating a "bureaucracy buster team" to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses;
- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business' personal property value;
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies;
- Simplify filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms;
- Expand the use of private labs for state business; and,
- Streamline U.S.-Canadian border issues by calling on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

Sikkema and Johnson said bills implementing the JOBS II action plan are being drafted and the Legislature could start acting on them within a week. Both leaders said they hope to have the entire plan on the governor's desk before lawmakers break for their summer recess.

"Many people are concerned over Michigan's fiscal health, and rightly so," Sikkema said. "But any long-term solution to the state's fiscal problems rests in our ability to make Michigan a competitive place to invest in a business and allow existing business to create new jobs."

Speaker Johnson agreed: "The national economy is up, but still we continue to struggle here in Michigan. The time for blue ribbon commissions and Cool Cities conferences is long past. We must act now on a plan to fuel Michigan's jobs recovery."